

Year 4

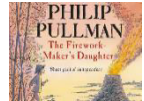
Autumn Term 2024

Cracking Contraptions & Extreme Earth

ENGLISH



Our 'Cracking Contraptions' topic will focus on non-fiction texts, in particular explanation texts, building on the children's knowledge of instructions from previous years. We will look at the features of these types of texts and focus on specific grammar and punctuation skills such as subordinating conjunctions.



We will then shift our focus to 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman when we being our 'Extreme Earth' topic – an epic adventure story based in another culture with a focus on Volcanoes. This is an excellent story for developing narrative skills, description and written dialogue whilst fostering their creativity. Throughout the term we will also improve our comprehension skills through guided reading activities too using our English texts.

MATHEMATICS

This term in Mathematics we will be reinforcing our understanding of place value (1s, 10s, 100s, 1000s). We will be exploring mental strategies to add and subtract near multiples of ten and mentally adding several numbers. A short unit on calculating the area of rectilinear shapes will be followed by a revision of the 3,6- and 9-times tables to then learn the rest up to 12 x 12, whilst also continuing with our Number Sense programme.

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

This topic focuses on physical geography such as mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes. We start this wide-ranging topic using our locational knowledge to discover mountain ranges around the world. We then learn about the Earth's tectonic plates, what lies below them and how this is connected to the formation of both mountains and volcanoes. As well as this, we learn how avalanches are caused and how climate change is affecting mountains. Throughout this term we will study the lives of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay and their determination and successes.

COMPUTING

In Computing we will be using the internet regularly to research our topic and will spend time linking E-Safety to our work in PSHE – keeping safe online. After half term, we will use data logging tools to measure and record sound and light, as well as use Microsoft Office Word and PowerPoint to develop our processing skills.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We are focusing on developing and improving our netball and rugby skills. Both topics start with a focus on ball-handling, passing and receiving before moving onto teamwork skills and tactics. The children will also be developing their balancing skills in gymnastics in produce a short sequence on the apparatus and will also begin to learn how to play lacrosse.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The first half term gives us a deeper look into Sikhism. We take a deeper look into the key beliefs of Sikhi, their values and their community life. In the second half term, we explore the question 'What did God promise to his people?'. We spend time looking at the Old Testament and New Testament and the covenants that God made with others.

MUSIC

In Music, we are learning to sing 'Mamma Mia' by Abba. We will also use a range of different instruments to play along to this song, with a focus on composition and performance. We will then move our focus onto the genre of 'rap', where the children will consider how lyrics convey meaning, and they will write and perform their own raps.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

We combine our new knowledge of electricity and circuits to make a game for younger children using simple circuits, with a focus on designing, making and evaluating. In December, we use of knowledge of sewing and stitches from Year 2 to make a 3D Christmas decoration

SCIENCE

'Cracking Contraptions' is a science focused topic, where we introduce the children to electricity. We begin by looking at appliances that use electricity, the components needed to make a simple working circuit and switched. We discuss materials which can be conductors and insulators and work scientifically to plan and conduct an experiment. Our next topic, 'Extreme Earth' allows us to think about the water cycle, changing environments for living things and their habitats as well as food chains.

ART

This term we will look at the colourful mixed media art work of Nick Rowland. We will use a range of different techniques to create our own erupting volcanoes including: Splattering, blowing with a straw, flicking and dripping paint.

PSHE

The first unit will run alongside our overarching topic; we will identify hazards and discuss how to prevent them both at home and when with others. In the second unit, we will discuss how friendships change and grow over time as well as how to maintain safe relationships with all.

FRENCH

This term in French, we will be revising some of the key French phonetic sounds to help children improve their oral rehearsal. We will then move on to look at 'What is the weather?' as well as members of our family, alongside written and speaking practice.